

low the bill to pass. But it may be hoped that they will have a better mind.

The measure before the Legislature is the bill prepared by the commission appointed to consider the feasibility of consolidation and to devise a plan of accomplishing it, of which ANDREW H. GREEN is President. One of the provisions of the bill is an appropriation to enable the commission to continue its work, and this by all means should be granted. We have already published and commented on the bill, which does not differ materially from the one that was before the last Legislature. The one point, besides the appropriation referred to, which makes it very desirable to have the bill passed is its provision for obtaining the sense of the people of the several municipalities concerned on the question of the desirableness of the project. Obviously this is a preliminary consideration which it is advisable to have definite information about before proceeding to formulate any plan of union in detail. Nobody now has such information of a formal and trustworthy character. It is known that the politicians of Brooklyn are strenuously opposed to the project in any form it may take, and of course they claim to represent the opinion of the people; but there are excellent reasons for doubting the validity of their pretensions.

If they have any real confidence in their representations of the state of public feeling in Brooklyn on this matter they ought not to fear, but on the contrary they ought to court an opportunity to demonstrate their correctness. Why they should be reluctant under such circumstances is a mystery. A decisive hostile expression on the part of Brooklyn, shown by a formal popular vote, would be apt to give the scheme its quietus for a few years at least. THE TIMES has often said that it believes that the citizens of Brooklyn, if a fair expression of their judgment could be obtained, as by a direct vote on the question, would favor union with New-York by a large majority, and we should be glad to see our judgment tested in a conclusive way. We think, too, that the politicians are needlessly alarmed regarding the effect of consolidation on their opportunities of holding office. Of certain offices there would be a diminution, while of others, and especially of public work in which the most are concerned, there might be an increase. Whether this be so or not it is unreasonable that those who have this kind of selfish interest in the matter should labor to prevent what the people may desire, or to prevent an ascertainment of the will of the citizens.

There are now in contemplation three new bridges connecting New-York and Brooklyn, and it is probable that at least two will be constructed within a very few years. The East River will then become hardly more of a dividing line, so far as common interests go, than Broadway or Forty-second Street is. The absurdity of having one Municipal Government on one side of Broadway and a distinct and often antagonistic Government on the other side is sufficiently apparent. But it would be scarcely more absurd or more embarrassing to the common welfare than the lack of a corporate unity of New-York and Brooklyn is fast becoming. Brooklyn has ceased to be merely a convenient country bedroom for persons doing business in New-York. It has become a populous commercial, mercantile, and manufacturing city; but in all these features it is a part of New-York, and its distinct corporate existence is not now an advantage, but a hindrance to its development.

Probably there is no thoughtful and sagacious man who does not perceive that consolidation is certain at some future time. The advantages will so far outweigh the disadvantages that union will be insisted upon. The arrangements essential to that end will require the earnest labors of the ablest men in both cities, and those who are instrumental in completing the great work will achieve for themselves an honorable and permanent place in the annals of the great metropolis they contribute to make possible. If it is conceded that the end is desirable, but objected that the people are not ready, what will do so much to disseminate the requisite knowledge and arouse the necessary interest as the discussion which would be invited by the requirement of a popular vote on the question? This would bring all general and speculative opinions to a focus and force a thorough public discussion of the pertinent facts in the case, which would be of immense advantage whatever might be the immediate decision. Therefore we urge the passage of the bill before the Legislature in order to bring the question before the people in a manner that will put them under an obligation of responsible action and secure a record of their judgment that will be indisputable.

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#### GIVE THE PEOPLE A VOICE.

The Assembly when it adjourned yesterday had reached on the calendar the Greater New-York bill, and it is the understanding that this will be taken up to be acted upon on Tuesday next. Probably there is little hope of favorable action on the measure as a whole, for the party bosses appear to have nearly complete control of this Legislature, and there is no assurance that those of New-York and Brooklyn have come to an agreement of willingness to al-